

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CU-04 EUR-25 SS-14 L-03

H-02 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 SCI-06 OST-04 EB-11 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /148 W
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R 101328 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1123

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1275

E. O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA: EMPHASIS
ON TUNISIA' S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS

1. DURING MY CALL ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA ON MARCH 10, HE REFERRED TO HIS RECENT SPEECHES AROUND COUNTRY IN WHICH HE HAD EMPHASIZED OVERRIDING NEED FOR TUNISIANS TO IMPROVE THEIR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWHOW. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE BELIEVED U. S. COULD PLAY LEADING ROLE. HE NOTED EXISTENCE OF AUB IN BEIRUT AND OF " AMERICAN UNIVERSITY" IN TANGIER. TUNISIA, TOO, NEEDS ASSISTANCE AT UNIVERSITY LEVELS, PARTICULARLY IN DEVELOPING ADDITIONAL FACULTIES AT SFAX UNIVERSITY. NEED IS CULTURAL AS WELL AS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL.

2. I SAID THAT WE CERTAINLY WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND ALLUDED TO HSR PAST CONTRIBUTIONS IN THESE FIELDS, INCLUDING USAID AND FORD FOUNDATION EFFORTS. I SAID THAT WE HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON A TUNISIAN REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A MEDICAL RESEARCH FACILITY AT SFAX UNIVERSITY AND THAT THIS WAS BEING FOLLOWED UP. ONE TROUBLE IS THAT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME USG AID RESOURCES ARE SEVERELY LIMITED AND WE ARE ABLE TO DO LESS NOW IN TERMS OF ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES THAN IN THE PAST.
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3. BOURGUIBA SAID THAT REASON HE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED
IN U. S. ASSISTANCE IN CULTURAL- SCIENTIFIC FIELD IS HIS
DESIRE TO MOVE TUNISIA AWAY FROM ITS LINKAGE IN THESE
FIELDS AND FRANCE. USG FAR AHEAD OF FRENCH IN LEVEL OF
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL KNOWHOW AND HE WANTED TUNISIANS
TO BENEFIT THEREFROM.

4. I SAID THAT WHILE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST
TO BE HELPFUL, TUNISIANS SHOULD EXPLORE FURTHER POSSIBILITIES
WITH PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS.
SEELYE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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